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SECURITY INFORMATIONCENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Harbor Observations - Murmansk, USSR

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1. Summary - Between three and six cruisers, thirty to forty DDs, and a large number of patrol craft and MTBs were present in the Kola Inlet and at Murmansk. Small mine layers were also observed near the mouth of the Kola Inlet. At least one and possibly two airfields at which MIG 15s are based were located near Murmansk, one probably only a few miles from the city, the other probably just east of the mouth of Kola Inlet. New sections of housing in southeastern Murmansk are suffering from either poor materials or building techniques and are rapidly falling into disrepair.

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4. Port Facilities - The pier [redacted] was about 500 feet long, made of wood and concrete. It ran parallel to the shore. No soundings were permitted (so that no estimate of the depth of the water at pier side could be given). The vessel was loaded by a floating crane of about 50 ton capacity. Railroad cars were run along the pier, which had an estimated six railroad tracks along it. These cars were emptied by laborers, using shovels, into large piles, from which the crane picked up loads with a 15-20 ton grab. We took on a cargo of 7500 metric tons of apatite.
5. Vessels Observed - Two or three cruisers, a large number of patrol craft and MTBs, and 30-40 DDs were observed outside the entrance to Kola Inlet, and along the shore line to the northwest, a number of patrol craft and MTBs were observed. The MTBs were usually observed in groups of three or six and appeared to be loaded with torpedoes. Two mine layers of small size were observed near the entrance to the Inlet, but they were not engaged in laying operations. The area off the west bank of the Inlet just south of Mishrikov Point, at latitude 69° 2' 30" North contained two or three cruisers and a large number of DDs, all lying at anchor. Two or three more large naval vessels were lying south of Murmansk city [redacted]
6. Aircraft - Aircraft were observed flying over the area constantly, although no more than six at one time were observed. All the aircraft sighted appeared to be MIG 15s. [redacted] There was one airfield somewhere near the city of Murmansk and another just east of the mouth of the Inlet.
7. Miscellaneous - A number of temporary wooden barracks were along the shore of Vaenga Bay (at latitude 69° 5' 30" North). A considerable number of people were observed in the area surrounding the barracks, but it was impossible to tell whether they were military personnel or not. A highway of about 1½ lanes, paved with crushed rock, apparently runs north from the city of Murmansk along or near the eastern shore of the Inlet at least as far north as Pinagori Point at 69° 3' 00" North. A single track railroad appears to parallel this

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road into Murmansk. Neither the road nor the railroad tracks could be observed from the Inlet any farther north than Pinagori Point. One section of Murmansk toward the southeastern section of the city appeared to have a considerable number of new apartment buildings, most of which were apparently occupied by military officers. Although the buildings were generally of brick and/or concrete, and were obviously fairly new, they were already noticeably in states of disrepair. Concrete doorways with cracks and severe sagging and several instances of small balconies opening on second and third story apartments which had completely given way on one side and were hanging perilously suspended by the anchoring on one side only. A large number of military personnel were observed in Murmansk with a high proportion being Air Force personnel. Among the military personnel observed, a very high proportion, perhaps 50 per cent, appeared to be officers.

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